

## Claims

1. Swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising at least one hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure.
- 5 2. Polymer according to claim 1 wherein said hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure is a polyester formed from a polyol and 2,2-dimethylolpropionic acid.
- 10 3. Polymer according to claim 1 wherein said hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure is a polypropyleneimine, a polyamidoamine or a polyesteramide.
4. Polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 3 further comprising a powdery and/or dusty additive.
- 15 5. Polymer according to claim 4 wherein said additive is a metal salt, a pyrogenic silica, a polysaccharide, a nonionic surfactant, a wax and/or diatomaceous earth.
- 20 6. Polymer according to either of claims 4 and 5 wherein said additive is present in the form of hollow microspheres which are from 1 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and whose wall thickness comprises from 1% to 10% of said diameter.
7. Polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 6 comprising less than 50 weight ppm of particles less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter.
- 25 8. Polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 7 comprising less than 50 weight ppm of particles less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter after exposure to mechanical stress.
- 30 9. A process for preparing a swellable hydrogel-forming polymer, which comprises aftertreating a hydrogel with a hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure.
10. A process according to claim 9 wherein said hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure is a polyester formed from a polyol and 2,2-dimethylolpropionic acid.
- 35 11. A process according to claim 9 wherein said hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure is a polypropyleneimine, a polyamidoamine or a polyesteramide.
12. A process according to any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein said aftertreating is carried out together with a surface-postcrosslinking operation.
- 40 13. A process according to claim 12 wherein the solvent which comprises at least one surface postcrosslinker is a mixture of isopropanol and water.

14. Use of the polymers according to any one of claims 1 to 8 for absorbing blood and/or body fluids.
- 5 15. Use according to claim 14 for absorbing urine.
16. Hygiene articles comprising a polymer according to any one of claims 1 to 8.